

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1-20, and add new claims 21-24 as follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A Breaking breaking device (2) for singularizing ceramic conductor plates (18) along weakening lines (20) on a ceramic conductor plate (18), comprising:

a breaking trap (4, 6) having

support plates (10, 12) displaceable relative to one another, ~~which can be displaced~~ from an initial position in which the support plates (10, 12) adjoin along a breaking line (14) and form an essentially flat support surface (16) into a breaking position in which the support plates (10, 12) are arranged ~~with~~ at an angle relative to one ~~[[to]]~~ another; and

a pinning device (52, 8) formed such that it positions the ceramic conductor plate (18) for a breaking operation against the support plates (10, 12), ~~characterized in the breaking trap (4, 6) comprising two support plates (10, 12) which adjoin along a breaking line (14);~~ the pinning device (52, 8) comprising an oblong engagement section ~~which~~ that is narrow transverse to a longitudinal direction thereof, ~~the breaking device (2) comprising; and~~

a positioning element (44) ~~which~~ that is formed such that it can position the weakening lines (20) consecutively in alignment with and above the breaking line.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~of~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in wherein~~ the support plates (10, 12) ~~comprising~~comprise breaking line ends (54, 56) adjacent to the breaking line (14), ~~and~~ wherein the breaking trap (4, 6) is formed such that the breaking line ends (54, 56) ~~can selectively be displaced~~displaceable upwardly into a breaking position or downwardly into a breaking position.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~of~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in wherein~~ the engagement section (58, 60) of the pinning device (52, 8) ~~being~~ is essentially arranged in substantially parallel to the breaking line (14).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~one~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 3~~, ~~characterized in wherein~~ the pinning device (52, 8) ~~comprising~~comprises two parallel engagement sections (58, 60).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~of~~ claim 4, ~~characterized in wherein~~ the engagement sections (58, 60) ~~being~~ are displaceable relative to one another.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~one~~ of claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 5~~, ~~characterized in wherein~~ the pinning device (52, 8) ~~comprising~~comprises a breaking knife (8) ~~which~~that is connected to the breaking device (2) such that it can be positioned above ~~[[a]]~~the breaking line (14) and moved ~~both in direction of~~ along and beyond the breaking line (14), ~~and~~ wherein the support plates (10, 12) are arranged resiliently such that the breaking line ends (54, 56) of the support plates (10, 12) are displaced downwardly beyond the breaking line (14) into the breaking position during ~~[[the]]~~a course of movement of the breaking knife (8).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to ~~one~~ of the claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 6~~, ~~characterized in wherein~~ at least one breaking line end (54, 56) of the

support plates (10, 12) of the breaking trap (4, 6) ~~being~~are upwardly displaceable, the support plates (10, 12) being arranged such that during movement of the breaking line ends (54, 6) upwardly a fragment of the ceramic conductor plate is exposed for gripping.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) ~~according to~~of claim 7, further comprising a transport element ~~which is formed such that operationally it can~~operable to be arranged adjacent to the fragment (38) of the ceramic conductor plate (18) and be displaced to transport away the fragment (38).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) ~~according to~~of claim 8, ~~characterized in wherein~~being the positioning element (44) ~~being~~is simultaneously the transport element.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) ~~according to one~~of the claim[[s]] 1 to 9, further comprising a coupling device (30) ~~which~~that is connected to the support plates (10, 12) of the breaking trap (4, 6) such that the movements of the support plates (10, 12) are synchronized.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) ~~according to one~~of the claim[[s]] 1 to 10, ~~characterized in~~further comprising a control ~~being provided, which the~~control configured to coordinate[[es]] the movements of the breaking trap (4, 6) with the movement of further elements (52, 8, 44) of the breaking device (2) and compris[[es]]ing an input interface through which the measurements of the ceramic conductor plates (18) ~~to be~~are singularized and at least one of the position, ~~and/or~~and distances of the weakening lines (20) arranged thereon, and[[/or]] the breaking direction can be input.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) ~~according to one~~of claim[[s]] 1 to 11, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising a retardation means (42) ~~for the~~selectively engageable with the ceramic conductor plates (18) ~~is provided~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to one of claim[[s]] 1 to 12, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising a turning device is provided with ~~which operationally operable to rotate at least one of~~ the ceramic conductor plates (18) to be processed and[[/or]] its fragments (38) ~~can be rotated about an axis which~~that is perpendicular to the support plates (10, 12).

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Breaking~~ The breaking device (2) according to one of claim[[s]] 1 to 13, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising a second breaking trap (6) is provided ~~which is arranged in the breaking device (2) such that is~~ having the breaking line thereof (14) arranged at an angle relative to the breaking line of the first breaking trap when viewed in the plane of the support plates (10, 12) is arranged with an angle relative to the breaking line of the first breaking trap (4).

15. (Currently Amended) Method A method for singularizing ceramic conductor plates (18) along weakening lines (20) of the ceramic conductor plate (18), comprising the following steps:

(a) ~~providing a breaking trap (4, 6) having two support plates (10, 12) displaceable relative to one another which can be displaced from an initial position in which the support plates (10, 12) adjoin along a breaking line (14) and form an essentially flat support surface (16) to a breaking position in which both support plates (10, 12) are arranged with at an angle toward one another;~~

[[b]]a) positioning a ceramic conductor plate (18) on ~~the~~two support plates forming an essentially flat support surface (10, 12) in the initial position such that [[a]] one of the weakening lines (20) along which breaking should occur is essentially above [[the]] a breaking line (14) between the two support plates;

[[c]]b) ~~lowering a pinning device (52) comprising two oblong engagement sections (58, 60) on the ceramic conductor plate (18) such that they transmit a pinning force onto the ceramic conductor plate (18) in the zone of two weakening lines (20) adjacent to the~~

~~weakening line (20), along which breaking should occur~~ applying a pinning force along engagement lines located on either side of the breaking line;

~~([[d]]c)breaking the ceramic conductor plate (18) by raising the breaking line ends (54, 56) of the support plates (10, 12) of the breaking trap (4, 6) upwardly into the breaking position~~ moving the support plates such that they are angled with respect to one another;

~~([[e]]d)raising the pinning device (52) ceasing to apply the pinning force and releasing fragments (38) of the ceramic conductor plate (18);~~

~~([[f]]e) returning the support plates (10, 12) into the initial positionsuch that they~~ form an essentially flat support surface;

~~([[g]]f) positioning the ceramic conductor plate (18) on the support plates (10, 12) such that a further weakening line (20)along which breaking should occur is positioned essentially above the breaking line (14); and~~

~~([[h]]g)repeating steps ([[c]]b) to ([[g]]f) until the ceramic conductor plate (18) is broken along a plurality of the weakening lines (20)along which breaking should occur.~~

16. (Currently Amended) Method A method for singularizing a ceramic conductor ~~plateplates (18)~~ along weakening lines (20) of the ceramic conductor plate (18), comprising the following steps:

~~(a) — providing a breaking trap (4, 6) with two support plates (10, 12) displaceable relative to one another, which can be moved from an initial position in which the support plates (10, 12) adjoin along a breaking line (14) and form an essentially flat surface (16) into a breaking position in which the two support plates (10, 12) are arranged with an angle towards one another;~~

~~([[b]]a)positioning [[a]]the ceramic conductor plate (18) on [[the]]two support plates (10,12) in the initial position~~ adjoining along a breaking line and forming an essentially flat surface such that one of the [[a]] weakening lines (20), along which breaking should occur[[,]] is essentially above the breaking line (14);

~~([[c]]b)breaking the ceramic conductor plate (18) by lowering a breaking knife (52, 8) essentially~~ applying a breaking force along aligned with the weakening line (20) against

the weakening line (20) and against a predetermined force of the support plates (10, 12) and thereby downwardly displacing the support plates (10, 12) into [[the]]a breaking position in which the plates are angled with respect to one another;

(~~[[d]]~~c) ~~raising the breaking knife (52, 8)~~ ceasing to apply the breaking force;

(~~[[e]]~~d) returning the support plates (10, 12) to the initial position

(~~[[f]]~~d) positioning the ceramic conductor plate (18) on the support plates (10, 12) such that a further weakening line~~[[,]]~~ along which breaking should occur~~[[,]]~~ is positioned essentially above the breaking line~~(14)~~, and

(~~[[g]]~~f) repeating the steps (~~[[c]]~~b) to (~~[[f]]~~g) until the ceramic plate is broken along a plurality of the weakening lines (20), ~~along which breaking should occur.~~

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 15 or 16, further comprising the step of displacing the support plates (10, 12) upwardly to a gripping position to enlarge [[the]]a gap between [[the]] fragments (38, 18) of [[a]]the ceramic conductor plate(18).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to~~ The method of claim 17, further comprising gripping in the gap between the fragments (38, 18) and transporting away one of the fragments~~(38)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to one of the claims~~ The method of claim 15 to 18, wherein [[the]] movements of the support plates (10, 12) are performed synchronously.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Method according to one of the claims~~ The method of claim 15, to 19 further comprising the step of retarding the ceramic conductor plate (18) after positioning the ceramic conductor on the support plates.

21. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displacing the support plates upwardly to a gripping position to enlarge a gap between fragments of a ceramic conductor plate.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising gripping in the gap between the fragments and transporting away one of the fragments.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the movements of the support plates are performed synchronously.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of retarding the ceramic conductor plate after positioning the ceramic conductor on the support plates.